

Application Serial No.: 10/673,986
Amendment and Response to January 28, 2008 Final Office Action

REMARKS

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Claims 1 – 3, 6 – 11, and 17 – 18 are in the application. Claims 1, 6, 7, 17, and 18 are currently amended; claims 2, 3, and 8 – 10 were previously presented; claims 4, 5, and 12 – 16 are cancelled; and claim 11 remains unchanged from the original version thereof. Claims 1, 17, and 18 are the independent claims herein.

No new matter has been added to the application as a result of the amendments submitted herewith.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 – 3, 5 – 11, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.C.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Becker et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,981,223. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant notes that claims 1, 17, and 18 are currently amended to further clarify that which is claimed as the invention by Applicant. Support for the current claim amendments is provided in the Specification at paragraphs [0043] and [0051] and FIGS. 4 – 7. In particular, FIGS. 4 – 7 illustrate a user interface that provides an aggregated view of the availability states for each of the at least one media capabilities associated with the plurality of communication devices associated with the identity. However, the communication devices are not provided or indication in the user interface. For example, each of FIGS. 4 – 7 shows the media capabilities of (1) phone calls and (2) instant messages for the identity "Brian", without any indication of the particular devices associated with Brian. In this manner, an accurate view of the availability states of the communication capabilities and channels through which Brian may be contacted or otherwise communicated with are presented in the user interface, without (for example) the clutter of the particular devices associated with Brian.

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Claim 1 relates to a method, including the steps of determining a plurality of communication devices associated with an identity; determining at least one media capability associated with each of the plurality of communication devices; determining an availability state for each of the at least one media capability associated with each of the plurality of communication devices, where the availability state provides an indication of the availability for each of the at least one specific media capability; and providing for the identity, via a user interface, an aggregated view of the availability states for each of the at least one media capability associated with the identity, wherein an indication of the plurality of communication devices associated with the identity is not provided via the user interface. Clearly, the claimed method includes providing a user interface that provides, for the claimed identity, an aggregated view of the availability states for each of the at least one media capability associated with the identity, wherein an indication of the plurality of communication devices associated with the identity is not provided via the user interface. Claims 17 and 18 are worded similar to claim 1 with respect to the pending rejection under 35 USC 102.

Applicant respectfully submits that Becker explicitly discloses a "pal" and the devices associated with the "pal". (Becker, FIG. 15) Becker discloses both primary and secondary messaging options. The options depicted include a clear indication of the devices associated with the "pal" for communication purposes. Shown for example are the devices of a SMS mobile phone, a J2ME phone (indicated by the handset in a circle icon; Applicant notes that this particular icon does not represent an "availability" as argued by the Examiner), a fax machine, etc. (Becker FIG. 15, including panel 1560)

Therefore, it is clear that Becker's disclosed user interface, method, and system specifically provides an indication of the particular devices associated with the "pals" therein. This particular disclosure of Becker is in direct opposition to that which is claimed by Applicant.

Furthermore, Applicant notes that the Office's arguments of record admit that Becker discloses the devices associated with the pals/users therein, including the

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statements made in the Office Action mailed January 28, 2008 at paragraph 2, pages 4 - 5.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Becker fails to anticipate claims 1, 17, and 18. Applicant also submits that claims 2, 3, and 5 - 11 are also patentable over Becker under 35 USC 102 for at least depending from an allowable base claim.

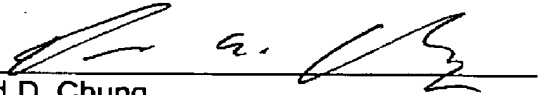
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 - 3, 5 - 11, 17, and 18 under 35 USC 102., and the allowance of claims 1 - 3, 6 - 11, 17, and 18.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (408) 492-5336.

Respectfully submitted,

27 March, 2008
Date


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